No.	R.A. 1896·0. h m s	Decl 1896·0. ° ′ ″	Authority.
38	2 52 33·60	+23 42 59·2	A.G.Z., Berlin B.
39	2 36 34·06	+16 30 54·0	A.G.Z., Berlin A.
40	5 53 33·58	+31 55 59·2	½ (Bessel + Bruxelles).
41	4 40 40·80	+14 20 29·6	Bessel − Weisse.
42	4 35 33·09	+14 37 14·2	„
43	4 28 25·01	+14 45 24·6	„
44	4 25 12·85	+14 52 52·0	½ (Arm. + Bruxelles).

Notes.

Sept. 14.—Comet exceedingly faint.

Nov. 4.—(195). Observation interrupted by clouds.

Nov. 4.—Comet exceedingly faint, scarcely visible.

Nov. 13.—During the observation of the comet a strong wind shook the instrument. The comet resembles a faint nebula with a distinct nucleus of about 13th magnitude.

Nov. 16.—Comet very faint; fog and moonlight.

Nov. 18.—Comet well seen, though faint.

Dec. 13.—Comet very faint. Hazy sky and moonlight.

Dec. 22.—Comet faint.

Dec. 23.—*Perrine*, Nov. 2, is a very distinct round nebulosity.

Dec. 23.—*Perrine*, Dec. 8, has an oval form and nucleus of 11th magnitude.

Transit Circle Observations of Comet Swift (1896 *April* 13) *at the Radcliffe Observatory, Oxford.*

(*Communicated by E. J. Stone, Esq., M.A., F.R.S., Radcliffe Observer.*)

The following comet observations, excepting May 2, were made with illuminated wires. A power of 80 was used on each night :—

Greenwich Mean Solar Time of Transit (sub polo).	Observer.	Apparent R.A. of Comet.	Apparent N.P.D. of Comet (Uncorrected for Parallax).	Parallax q.	Log $(q \times \Delta)$.
1896. h m s		h m s	° ′ ″	″	
Apr. 30 12 27 57·6	W.	3 0 40·03	37 55 18·5	13·8	0·9327
May 1 12 18 53·5	W.	2 55 30·99	36 11 3·0	13·4	0·9293
2 12 9 31·6	R.	2 50 3·95	34 33 57·1	13·1	0·9257
4 11 50 3·7	W.	2 38 26·09	31 38 46·9	12·4	0·9183
11 10 36 20·2	W.	1 52 6·40	24 27 50·6	10·4	0·8946
13 10 14 20·7	R.	1 37 56·36	23 5 6·9	9·9	0·8891
14 10 3 16·7	W.	1 30 47·16	22 28 27·9	9·7	0·8865

In the computation of the parallaxes the adopted value of the Sun's mean horizontal parallax is 8″·85, and the geocentric distances, Δ, are taken from the *Astronomische Nachrichten*, No. 3,349.

Observers' Remarks.

April 30.—The comet appeared as a large diffused mass about 0′·8 in diameter, difficult to observe; there was no definite condensation. Only one bisection secured in N.P.D. Sky rather thick.

May 1.—Round patch of light; a condensation showed now and then, but difficult to bisect properly.

May 2.—Observed in a nearly dark field; observation not satisfactory; very difficult.

May 4.—Only a very approximate observation; sky very thick.

May 11.—Good observation.

May 13.—Very difficult, faint; sky hazy.

May 14.—Observation considered very fair for so faint an object.

Observers: W., Mr. W. Wickham; R., Mr. W. H. Robinson.

Radcliffe Observatory, Oxford:
1897 *March* 11.

Ephemerides for Physical Observations of Mercury.

By A. Marth.

Though the assumption of the coincidence of the plane of *Mercury's* equator with that of the orbit is arbitrary, it is at present the only one available, if the wishes of observers for ephemerides are to be complied with. I now give such ephemerides covering the times of Mr. Percival Lowell's observations made in the autumn of 1896, and also the part of the next synodical revolution, during which observations may be procurable. As it is simpler to employ in the computations the planet's geocentric ecliptical longitudes and latitudes, not published in the *Nautical Almanac*, I have used the places of the *Connaissance des Temps*, so that the data of the ephemeris are true ones for Paris noon, and apparent ones for Greenwich noon $+\tau$.

P denotes the position-angle of the assumed axis of rotation, reckoned, as usually, from the declination circle.

L + 180 and B, the longitude and latitude of the Earth referred to the planet's orbit, the longitude being reckoned from the perihelion.

ω_0 the hermographical longitude of the central meridian on the supposition that the period of rotation coincides with the planet's return to perihelion, or the angle "Mean Anomaly − L." If n is considered the daily rate of rotation "Const. $+ n(t - t_0)$ − L" must be substituted.

d, the apparent diameter, 6″·68 being the assumed value at distance 1.